

January 17, 2022

Dear Montgomery County Council,

I earned a Ph.D. in Virology and Immunology and was a postdoctoral researcher at the Vaccine Research Center of the National Institutes of Health, and I am a Montgomery County Resident.

I strongly oppose the Vaccine Requirements Resolution and vaccine mandates or passports.

Evidence for vaccine-induced adverse events, limited vaccine efficacy, and broader protection from SARS-CoV-2 natural immunity than vaccines call for personal and individual risk assessment in the medical decision for an individual to be vaccinated. Bypassing informed consent, a standard principle of medical care and clinical research, the proposed resolution establishes a punitive system which uses vaccine passports in exchange for basic rights and access to basic needs. It is not ethical to coerce individuals to make a medical decision that may not be in their own best health interest, which would best be assessed using all available medical data.

My concerns with the vaccine requirement are:

- 1) Serious adverse events have been described for SARS-CoV-2 vaccines, [including myocarditis](#); [thrombosis](#); [neurodegeneration](#); [autoimmunity](#); and death.¹ As [some scientists](#) have indicated, this calls for rethinking of [vaccine risk-benefit analysis](#).
- 2) Natural immunity to SARS-CoV-2 is [protective](#) against viral variants and in some cases, even more so than vaccine-induced immunity. There is indication that vaccination after SARS-CoV-2 infection can lead to [reduced immunity against SARS-CoV-2](#) variants.
- 3) SARS-CoV-2 vaccination does not prevent virus spread. SARS-CoV-2 variants are transmitted both by [vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals](#) (for example, reported in this study) and breakthrough infections with the Omicron variant are common, therefore the proposed vaccine requirement does not “prevent the spread of COVID-19”, as stated as the resolution’s goal.
- 4) Long-term effects of the SARS-CoV-2 vaccines are not known, and clinical trials are ongoing.

¹ This analysis found, “reporting rate for deaths following COVID-19 vaccines is 30 times higher than the reporting rate for all vaccines combined from 2010-2020.” https://downloads.regulations.gov/CDC-2021-0089-0024/attachment_2.pdf

I strongly urge you to vote against this resolution.

Sincerely,

Shannon Murray, Ph.D.